

DAVID INCHES.

MARCH 7, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER (for Mr. BURTON), from the Committee on Pensions,  
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2252.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2252) granting an increase of pension to David Inches, have examined the same and report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$17 to \$30 per month the pension of David Inches, who was a corporal in Company C, Forty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, from April 30, 1864, to September 15, 1864, when his service was honorably terminated.

Claimant is now receiving a general-law pension of \$17 per month for chronic diarrhea and resulting disease of rectum, incurred during his military service, and can obtain no further relief at the Bureau, several applications for increase filed there having been rejected on the ground that his rate was commensurate with the disability resulting from pensioned causes. His last application was filed February 4, 1903, which was rejected July 25, 1903.

Claimant also suffers from loss of both eyes, disease of nervous system, and sciatic rheumatism, by reason of which he is totally and permanently helpless. He declares that these disabilities are due to a general breaking down of his system, caused by chronic diarrhea and disease of rectum, for which he is pensioned, and he filed a claim to that effect, but the Bureau declined to accept them as results of the pensioned disabilities, and this action was affirmed on appeal by Assistant Secretary F. L. Campbell.

Claimant's most serious disability is of course the loss of both eyes, both eyeballs being removed. This is shown to have been caused by glaucoma, which developed in late years, and there is no proof, theoretical or otherwise, which will sustain the contention that glaucoma was caused by chronic diarrhea and disease of rectum. No error appears on the part of the Bureau in declining to admit sciatic rheumatism, disease of nervous system, and loss of eyes as results of pensioned disabilities.

Claimant is 70 years old. When he was last examined, November 17, 1903, he was found to be helpless from his several disabilities, and required the regular aid and attendance of another person.

The papers on file in the Bureau show claimant to be a poor man and in great need. An increase of his pension to \$30 per month is recommended on the ground of his present helpless condition; his service was comparatively short and the facts do not warrant an increase beyond that rate.

The bill is therefore reported back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

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